

SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 51st ANNUAL CONFERENCE
held at CONWAY HALL, RED LION SQUARE, W.C.1. - 8th, 9th & 10th APRIL 1955.

Conference Sessions.

First Day 11.15 a.m. to 6.15 p.m.
Second Day 11.20 a.m. to 6.20 p.m.
Third Day 11.20 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Attendance.

Delegates present.

Branches represented.

First Day: 57 25
(Morning session) - Croydon, Dartford, Eccles,
Nottingham, Swansea and Tottenham not represented.
62 27
(Afternoon session) - Croydon, Eccles, Tottenham,
and Swansea not represented.

Second Day: 47 27
(Morning session) - Croydon, Eccles, Nottingham and
Tottenham not represented.
55 27
(Afternoon session) - Croydon, Bradford, Eccles and
Tottenham not represented.

Third Day: 42 23
(Morning session) - Croydon, Dartford, Eccles,
Fulham, Leyton, Nottingham, Tottenham and Palmers
Green not represented.
57 26
(Afternoon session) - Croydon, Dartford, Eccles,
Tottenham and Palmers Green not represented.

The attendance reports were made at 11.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
each day by the Standing Orders Committee.

Chairman - A. George (Bloomsbury).
Vice-Chairman - P. Howard (Bloomsbury).

Standing Orders Committee acted as tellers
throughout the Conference.

REPORT of the 51st EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS. No Action.
2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ATTENDANCES. No Action.
3. BRANCHES, MEMBERSHIP & ORGANISATION - It was agreed by a
large majority that this matter be deferred to later in the
Conference.
- (d) Groups Secretary's Report. No Action.
- (e) Internal Party Journal. No Action.
- (f) Librarian's Report. No Action

continued.....

(g) Book Department.

No Action.

(h) Central Organiser's Report.

No Action.

(i) Premises Committee's Report.

CAMBERWELL (Baldwin). The front window at Head Office has for some months now remained dirty and untidy, advertisements of mid-day and other meetings are not displayed. When the Committee is approached and asked why this lack of advertising, we are told that it is the job of the Propaganda Committee, who in turn insist that it is the job of the Premises Committee. We are not too concerned whose job it is, but surely someone is responsible for Head Office window.

PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE (Howard). We have approached the Premises Committee about the advertising of meetings and it has been agreed that we shall notify them of details of forthcoming meetings, in order that they can arrange for posters to be drawn up and advertised in the window in plenty of time.

EALING (Critchfield). Asked if the Committee had acted on the Delegate Meetings' recommendation.

ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY (Phillips). Gave information in the absence of the Committee. Delegates should remember that the Delegate Meeting recommendation came late in the year. Branches were asked to supply information, but, so far, have failed to do so. At present the Committee have been unable to satisfy the recommendation, it should also be remembered that this is a review of work carried out in 1954. No doubt the Committee will present the Delegate Meeting with a more comprehensive report on this item.

BLOOMSBURY (Kersley). We should bear in mind that the Premises Committee told you in their report to the last Delegate Meeting that they have in hand the alteration of the Head Office shop window, when that is complete, a more pleasing display of Party Literature and advertisement of Party meetings will be possible, in the mean time the Committee have agreed to purchase three large boards with removeable lettering which will simplify advertising and make Head Office window more pleasing.

EALING (Critchfield). Our Branch deplores the lack of information in the report. Why couldn't the Committee have reported along the lines of the information supplied by the Assistant Secretary.

(j) Canteen & Social Committee's Report.

No Action.

4. PROPAGANDA.

Resolution (Il - St. Pancras). "That this Annual Conference instructs the Executive Committee to make every effort to recommence Provincial Propaganda Tours on the basis of those laid down by previous Annual Conferences".

Amendment (Islington). "Delete all after the word "Tours".

WEST HAM (Thurloe). We support the amendment as it gives a wider scope to the Executive and Propaganda Committees.

ST. PANCRAS (Moss). The reason this appears on the Agenda, is that St. Pancras agree that we should give some guidance to the Propaganda Committee, the resolution stresses the procedure as laid down by previous Annual Conferences. We hold that the previous methods showed results and should, therefore, continue to operate.

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MANCHESTER (Warnecke). We also support the amendment, but at the same time support the procedure laid down at last Eastern Conference. By this means our propaganda could be strengthened and improved. Party activity of this kind should be developed.

Amendment Carried 57 - 11.

Amended Resolution Carried by a large majority.

Standing Orders Committee reported at 11.30 a.m. on the number of Delegates in attendance, they also reported that the Delegates from St. Pancras had been unable to submit the required number of Forms 'C' due to circumstances beyond the control of the Branch, concerning the Branch Secretary. They therefore sought permission of the Conference to sit.

Resolution (Flitter & Keys - FULHAM). "That the explanation of the Delegates be accepted and they be granted special circumstances and be allowed to sit". AGREED.

Resolution - (E. Guy - LEWISHAM & Flitter - FULHAM). "That the report of the Standing Orders Committee be adopted". AGREED.

CAMBERWELL (Baldwin). Is it the wish of Conference that two members who have recently been asked by the Executive Committee to tender their resignation be allowed to remain seated as delegates.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (Ambridge). Until we are in receipt of their resignation, then they are entitled to claim full membership. Nothing in the Rules permits us to rule that they cannot sit as delegates representing their Branches.

Resolution - (Steed - HAMPSTEAD & Baldwin - CAMBERWELL). "That the Delegates in question be not allowed to sit".

Lost 6 - 46.

5. LITERATURE.

(k) Editorial Committee's Report.

LEWISHAM (R. Guy). Asked if the articles rejected on the grounds that they failed to conform to the Party case was of recent months or had the Editorial Committee met the same problem in previous years. Was this in fact something new, developing out of the present controversy within the Party.

EALING (Critchfield). Asked if the Editorial Committee had been able to prepare a leaflet on the H-Bomb, could a member of the Committee supply Conference with information.

Resolution (8 - Glasgow). "That this Conference instructs the Executive Committee to advertise the pamphlets in the "Socialist Standard" ".

Amendment (Islington). "Delete 'instructs' and insert 'requests' ".

GLASGOW (Travers). We feel that the Party's Pamphlets should be advertised in the "Socialist Standard" ".

BRADFORD (Hall). We are of the opinion in Bradford that the front page could be designed in such a way as to attract readers.

ISLINGTON (Holliday). Agreed with Glasgow Branch.

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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE (Hardy). We have received in past years from time to time, articles in conflict with the Party's case, but this time we felt that we should draw your attention to this fact as the position has become decidedly worst over the last two years. We have in hand the request concerning the publication of a leaflet on the H-bomb, in fact, last week we presented the E.C. with our report. At present this has not been considered by the E.C. We would also point out to Conference that we carry a stock of adverts which are placed in the "Standard" from time to time, we would like to have the pamphlets advertised every month, but often we are faced with having to put in a late advert for a Meeting and then we find it convenient to use the space set aside for pamphlet adverts. As to the front page, its design is not out job, but that of the Cover Designs Committee, but if any Branch has any ideas in connection with the front page layout, then we would welcome their suggestions.

Item for Discussion 20 - Swansea. Deferred until Branch is in attendance.

GLASGOW (Travers), speaking on the amendment. Does it matter if we instruct or request as long as the job is put in hand?

ISLINGTON (Holliday). We do not like instructing the E.C., if it is not possible to carry out the instruction.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE (McClatchie). It is quite easy, if the Members insist on the pamphlets advert going in each month, then it will have to go in.

Voting on the amendment Carried 35 - 11.
Voting on the resolution as amended Carried 42 - 8.

Resolution (9 - Fulham). "That this Conference instructs the Executive Committee to set up a Committee to make arrangements for the publication of a weekly Socialist Newspaper within the next twelve months".

FULHAM (Flitter), opening to the resolution. The Branch are in general agreement over this item. For some years now we have called for the consideration of the publication of a weekly Socialist Standard. In the past, the Committee set up to consider this presented favourable reports. We therefore consider that the question should be fully investigated.

WICKFORD (Bowie). Are we now to assume that Fulham wants a weekly "Socialist Standard" and not a weekly Socialist Newspaper. I consider that there is some considerable difference, and that Fulham should make up their minds.

EALING (Dale). Can Fulham outline any plans they have if any, for the distribution of this paper if published?

BRIGHTON (Robertson). Our branch did a few years ago debate the publication of a weekly "Socialist Standard" and sent a circular to that effect to every Branch.

ST. PANCRAS (Moss). Some years ago we did discuss this question at great length at Conference. It is true that the job of its distribution would have to be fully discussed and planned. I don't think that it is a problem due to the lack of writers, but rather that it is a problem due to the lack of enthusiasm.

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CAMBERWELL (Baldwin). In our first number of the "Socialist Standard" we stated that we hoped to be able to publish a fortnightly or weekly "S.S." but at the moment we are entirely dependent on the small handful of voluntary workers who are hard put to getting a monthly journal out on time. I question if at the moment we could possibly duplicate this work.

LITERATURE SECRETARY (Lawrence). At the present our finances are poor, but we should not let that serve as a bar to discussing this item, but I would urge Delegates to reconsider, on return to your branches, the 1950 Committee's Report on this.

Voting on the resolution Lost 9 - 58.
Resolution (10 - Southend). "That this Conference is of the opinion, that the present method whereby persons agreeing with the Party's case, are invited to join by a short statement printed at the end of the Declaration of Principles, is grossly inadequate and that appeals for support (financial) and the need to increase the sales of the "Socialist Standard" often lack publicity in a colourful and interesting manner. This Conference therefore instructs the Executive Committee to investigate methods of stressing in the columns of the "Socialist Standard", the urgency of

- 1). Joining the Party.
- 2). Contributing to Party Funds.
- 3). Increasing the circulation of the "Socialist Standard", and to invite and consider proposals from members for better publicity for the Party in its literature".

SOUTHEND (Cottis), opening to the resolution. Our present method of appeal to non-socialists is very poor indeed. We are confident that there are ways of making the "S.S." more attractive, designed to induce would-be supporters or members to take an active interest in the Party. Appeals for funds, lack the urgency of the appeal, why not consider having a target showing the donations to a particular fund, it would, we are sure, arouse interest among sympathisers and members alike. We should, through the columns of the "Standard" appeal to non-members to encourage sales at their place of work, to pass on copies to their friends etc.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE (McClatchie). We did in by-gone years publish targets. One being for a thousand pounds. We did not get the thousand pounds, but members got fed up with constantly seeing the target published.

WICKFORD (Plummer). We could take an example from the "Western Socialist" and publish a list of the newsagents selling the "Socialist Standard".

GLASGOW (Travers). Reports on door-to-door sales would help to encourage members and sympathisers.

CAMBERWELL (Baldwin). Extending the hand of welcome is still left undone, consideration should be given to making the lead articles attractive and inviting to non-members.

WICKFORD (Bowey). We in this branch support the idea contained in Southend's resolution. We have a lot to learn from the lay-out slogans and presentation of the Party's case, from our Comrades in America. The example is set by the "Western Socialist".

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE (McClatchie). We forget what we ourselves should do. Southend tell us in discussion that they have several ideas, why don't they send them in?

ST. PANGRAS (Moss). It is a healthy thing for branches to discuss this matter at Conference.

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WEST HAM (Thurloe). We should appeal to emotions. When appealing for new members, we should explain what Socialism means.

SOUTHEND (Cottis), replying to the discussion. We are not critical of the present "Socialist Standard", we like the style of the articles. We did do something, we wrote to the E.C. twice, and it was turned down. Appeals fail to convey a sense of urgency about them.

Voting on the resolution Carried 36 - 18.

The Conference now adjourned for
lunch at 1 p.m.

The Conference recommenced at 2 p.m.

The Chairman called the attention of the Delegates to page 7 of the final Agenda - Statement of Accounts.

EALING (Hampson), opening discussion. If Delegates total up the items under literature, you will find a deficit of £600 over the year, almost a quarter of the total turnover of the Party. We should know how this loss is accounted for.

TREASURER (Lake). One reason is that we have in stock pamphlets, some having been paid for and now slowly selling off, also the publication of the September Jubilee "Socialist Standard" left many copies unsold.

EALING (Hampson). Now we have some information, but it still remains that we have a deficit. In fact the Statement of Accounts, which our attention has been drawn to, does not give us much information at all.

MANCHESTER (Warnecke). Is anything being done concerning the loss on dues receipts from Branches and members?

TREASURER (Lake). That question should be addressed to the Branches, they are the people responsible and should endeavour to get to H.O. regular payments of dues and other accounts. If some members are lax in their payment of dues, and the figures suggest that many are, then it is the job of the local Branch Treasurer to chase members up.

KELVINGROVE (Webster). It is a serious matter for an Organisation of our size to carry such a deficit.

CAMBERWELL (Baldwin). We have always been hard up for money. There is no way out of this problem at present. At the moment the General Fund has dipped into the Special Funds, including the Parliamentary Fund.

Floor Resolution - EALING (Hampson and Critchfield). "That the attention of the E.C. be drawn to the alarming financial situation shown in the Statement of Accounts for 1954. And they be asked to consider immediately the steps to be taken to deal with this."

EALING (Hampson), opening discussion to the resolution. We are at present suffering from a serious deficit on dues receipts and literature. We should, therefore, consider how we can bring this loss down. At present we are having to draw from other Party Funds, this is no solution. No other Delegate intimated that they wished to speak to the motion, so a vote was taken. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Standing Orders Committee reported at 2.20 p.m. that 62 Delegates were present representing 27 Branches. Branches not represented being:-
Croydon, Eccles, Swansea & Tottenham.

Resolution - LEWISHAM (R. Guy) and BLOOMSBURY (Gillies).
"That the report be adopted."

AGREED.

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CHARGE AGAINST A MEMBER UNDER RULE 33.

At 2.30 p.m. the Chairman called the attention of the Conference to the fact that Comrade A.W.L. Turner of PADDINGTON BRANCH was here charged with action detrimental to the interests of the Party by the Executive Committee. He reminded Delegates that their duty was to hear the case of the Executive Committee and of the accused and to assess the case as individuals. No Delegate should be sitting with Branch instructions on this matter. The findings of this Conference will, as per Rule 33, be put to a Party Poll in order to reach a decision.

CAMBERWELL (Baldwin) challenged the remarks of the Chairman, that as a Delegate from Camberwell, his remarks would be stating the opinion of his Branch in this matter.

GLASGOW (Travers). Our Branch has fully discussed the charge in accordance with Rule 33, but that does not preclude us from hearing the points of view of other Branches via their Delegates.

Floor Resolution - EALING (Hampson) and WICKFORD (Bowey).
"That only Delegates, members of the E.C. and Parties to the charge be allowed to speak".

FULHAM (Flitter). Delegates should oppose this motion. It is not a consideration of time that is important but a consideration of accuracy. Full discussion should be afforded to all members present.

LEWISHAM (E. Guy). I cannot support this motion. I feel that all members must be allowed their say.

PADDINGTON (Parker). We must oppose this resolution. I see no reason to vary Standing Orders.

EALING (Hampson), replying to the resolution. As Delegates it is out responsibility to do the work at Conference. Therefore discussion on this case should be confined to those set out in the motion.

Resolution - Lost 27 - 35.

The Chairman now proceeded to read the charge.

At the 8th Meeting of the 52nd Executive Committee of Tuesday, 22nd February 1955, a charge was laid against Comrade Turner as follows:-

"That Comrade A.W.L. Turner (Paddington Branch) be suspended and charged with action detrimental to the interests of the Party, in that he agitates among Party Members for the abolition of the Declaration of Principles, evidence for this is from the following extracts from the Journal "FORUM" :-

"The whole of the D. of P. leads up to the objective contained in Clause 6, namely, that the working-class must consciously capture control of the machinery of Government".

"FORUM", Nov. 1954 .

continued.....

"A Socialist Party cannot aim at gaining control of the Governmental machinery". "FORUM", Feb. 1954.
 "We cannot convert instruments of oppression into agents of emancipation". "FORUM", Nov. 1954.

Executive Committee.

The Chairman now asked if any members of the Executive Committee wished to open on their charge, as the only evidence from them seemed to be that contained within the terms of the charge.

E.C. MEMBER (Lawrence). Comrade Turner should be called upon to defend the statements made in the charge.

WEST HAM (Thurloe). Surely it is the duty of the E.C. to open on this case.

The Chairman continued to call for E.C. members to speak to the charge.

CAMBERWELL (Baldwin). Why must the Chairman waste the time of Conference. It seems that we will not have time to hear the case if this 'dilly-dallying' goes on as to who should open up the discussion.

Resolution - CAMBERWELL (Baldwin & McCarthy). "That the Chairman leave the chair".
Amendment - WICKFORD (Bowey) and SOUTHEND (Cottis). "That the Chairman accept the vote of direction".

Sub-res Lost - 14 - 28.
 Lost - 8 - 40.

E.C. MEMBER (Young). I think that in all sincerity that the charged member should reply first to the charge.

E.C. MEMBER (Lawrence). I cannot quite follow this point. What is stated is clear. I think that the position is also clear. One has not got to sit down and listen to several members - the statements are laid down in writing. His statements are his decision and to me very clear. In Turner's mind there is no doubt where his position lies. It conflicts with the Party position, particularly in the November "FORUM" is an article in which he laid down quite clearly his position. Comrade Turner may reject the decision of the Party meeting - but these statements are made in a responsible way. The Conference is entitled to ignore the statements contained in this article, but there remains a clear conflict between Turner and the Party. In my mind this position argued by Turner is paralysing the Party's activities; this matter should have been brought to a head a long time ago; it makes it impossible for the Party to carry out its propaganda work. If this attack was coming from outside of the Party it could do no harm, we could debate or reply as a Party, but coming from within the Party we only do ourselves harm in endeavouring to reply. One would think that freedom to advocate political views is only held within the Party. Turner outside the Party would, I'm sure, find no platform to air his views, we cannot afford to give him the credit of political security whilst he continues to hold these views. It is your duty as Delegates to consider the issues involved. I ask you not to be hesitant.

S.W. LONDON (Bott). We are told that members are leaving in despair. Could we be informed of those members, their names and addresses.

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E.C. MEMBERS (Lawrence). I will not give names, but I personally know of a number of members who have left in despair, also our literature sales have seriously fallen off since this controversy started.

E.C. MEMBER (McLaughlin). I am more concerned with the reputation of the Party than any member of it. Comrade Turner has claimed privilege within the Party, holding to the decision made at the 1950 Conference, "That holding views contrary to the D. of P. do not in themselves constitute action detrimental to the interests of the Party". He has expressed conflict with the Party in print and by the spoken word.

E.C. MEMBER (Young), asked a question of Comrade Turner. Do you, Turner, accept the Declaration of Principles of the Party?

COMRADE TURNER. When E.C. members have spoken, I shall reply to Young.

E.C. MEMBER (Groves). I don't support the charge, in fact I opposed it from the start for the reasons that (1) "FORUM" is privileged and (2) I am prepared to accept and follow out the instructions of the Party Poll. The decision of the Party Poll is to my mind final.

E.C. MEMBER (Ambridge). I can't improve on the statements made by Comrade Lawrence. I ask Delegates to think over the panel that appears in the "S.S." each month, our Object and Declaration of Principles; ask yourselves can you take out the relevant clauses in this charge and still have the same set of Principles? or the Object remain the same? A Political Party cannot aim at gaining control of the Political machinery, this Party exists openly and deliberately to do precisely this. You cannot permit Turner to retain his membership whilst he is in opposition to Clause 6. Turner is, in effect, working within the Party for the abolition of the Party.

E.C. MEMBER (Young). Comrade Turner says he has nothing to say - I took the view once that we could afford to ignore this stuff, but it has taken a hold and the ideas have spread outside of the Party. We are in receipt of correspondence in the 'Operative Builder' where we have ex-member Lacey writing to say that the Party has overthrown its principles due to Turner. We cannot retain a man in the Party who insists upon the right to air his views publically. I claim that it is impossible for heresy hunts to take place in the Party. No member ever invited Turner to make anti-socialist statements, therefore, it is up to the member who makes these statements to suffer the consequences. You have all the evidence you need, go and read through some of his articles.

E.C. MEMBER (Cash). I am completely opposed to this charge. On the whole, basic approach to an item for discussion will afford ample opportunity for members to discuss putting forward their items of controversy. Comrade Young wants to know why Turner wants to remain, putting over his ideas as a member of the Party - the charge in fact, is that he agitates among members for the abolition of the Object and Declaration of Principles. I deny that any of those who have spoken so far have shown that Turner holds views to abolish the D. of P. To adopt the attitude that the Object and D. of P. are unquestionable reduces us to the level of the Roman Church, the Declaration of Principles are not the basis of membership as such, in the dogmatic fashion discussed here today; to expel a member is to reduce the Party to a state where everyone is afraid to discuss within the Party. I suggest that you are afraid that outsiders will get to know that there are differences of views within the S.P.G.B. I would rather that be known than to be known as the Party with the dogmatic Object and Principles.

continued.....

EALING (Hampson), question to Cash. If a member began to agitate for another Political Party within the S.P.G.B., what would be your view?

E.C. MEMBER (Cash). I would have no objection to him remaining inside the Party, but I would send him to see a Psychiatrist.

E.C. MEMBER (D'Arcy). Can Turner honestly hold the view that his written statements are compatible with Party membership when they are in complete contradiction to the accepted Party position. The Party has always been tolerant but this controversy has set half the Party arguing against itself; if he holds the view that he was privileged when he made those statements in writing, then I hold that he has had sufficient time to straighten out his views. To my knowledge his views remain as he wrote them, therefore the case is quite plain and straightforward. He is in opposition, then he must leave the Party.

E.C. MEMBER (McClatchie). I was opposed to the present charge against Turner. We should have asked him if he accepted the Party's Object and Declaration of Principles. I hold that his views are unacceptable for membership of the Party, therefore, he should no longer remain a member.

E.C. MEMBER (Lake). I think the E.C. should have used the Party Poll result.

COMRADE A.W.L. TURNER (the charged member now replied). I have listened very carefully to the utterances of the E.C. members. In the midst of the discussion that has taken place, you may have forgotten the terms of the charge, I will repeat the charge to freshen your memories:- "That Comrade A.W.L. Turner (Paddington) be suspended and charged with action detrimental to the interests of the Party, in that he agitates among Party members for the abolition of the Declaration of Principles," evidence for this is from the following extracts from the journal "FORUM" - the essence of the charge is that I, Turner, wrote three statements in "FORUM", one in February 1954 and the others in November 1954. The charge is that I agitate for the abolition of the D. of P. No member of the E.C., I repeat, no member has produced any evidence to back that statement. I do not, nor never have I agitated for the abolition of the D. of P. There is not one of you here that can produce evidence to that effect. I am in favour of organisation, any organisation must have principles and a set of rules. Nowhere can it be shown that I have written to advocate the abolition of the D. of P., you are here judging if Turner is agitating for the abolition of the D. of P.; at no time have I ever stated on the platform that the Party does not seek political power. On the contrary, I have stated the need for the gaining of the Governmental machinery. There is not one of you here present that can prove that there will be a Government system to take control of. Turner then read the statement in "FORUM" dealing with this matter.

I bitterly oppose the dictatorship of the proletariat, you should put the statements into their context, not one of you could oppose this. One year ago Hampstead Branch stated their intolerance, I wrote the article in February "FORUM", two months before their decision.

In the 1936 Spanish Civil War, some members wanted to take part but nobody invoked the D. of P.

This charge was deferred until after the result of the Party Poll was known. At no time were the "FORUM" statements ever considered by the E.C.

I hold the view that ideas have got to change but the ideas will change to revolution to oppose Socialism and then accept them later. Members from the Provinces may get the misguided view that members in London are getting on platforms in opposition to the Party, that is not true, my criticism of the D. of P. and

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Comrade A.W.L. Turner (contd.)

I am in particular is not from the position of the Anarchist or any other political position, I only want to spread my views to all members of the Party. I am not opposed to the Party, I disagree with the Party position on violence and was even before I joined. I am not asking for freedom for liars and hypocrites, I am asking for freedom to discuss the Party's position and its D. of P. I would ask those who say he should be out of the Party, even those who have been a member longer than I, if at any time some little doubt has never crossed their minds, it has mine. When complained of at the Debate with the Anarchist, the Party accepted my reply to the complaint.

W.C. TURNER (Young) again put his question. Do you, Turner, accept the Object and Declaration of Principles?

TURNER replied and continued. In reply to Young, I would say that I agree with much and disagree with some.

W.C. TURNER (Melbourne) If Turner does hold these views, how would he examine an applicant for membership.

TURNER. If any person makes application and disagrees with the Party, he will not get in as the D. of P. stands as the majority decision of the Party, but that does not prevent a member once inside the Party, to question and discuss those Principles.

If the question is, do I accept the D. of P. including clause 6, then I must plead guilty, but I urge members to bear in mind the terms of the charge.

Floor resolution - S.W. LONDON (Bott and Lestor). "That this Conference find the charge against Comrade Turner NOT PROVEN".
Carried 37 - 23.

Comrade Turner asked that his suspension be lifted in view of the Conference decision.

The Chairman read to the Conference, Rule 33, and informed Comrade Turner that, until the matter had been referred to a Poll of the Party, he must remain under suspension from all Party activity.

The Conference adjourned until Saturday morning at 11 a.m.

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DAY - FIRST SESSION

LESTER (Warnecke). Asked what would now happen to the charge, in the light of yesterday's decision?

S.W. LONDON (Lester). "It would appear that from the decision of yesterday that the position of the charged member is clear, the matter is now closed. I suggest we put the charge and our findings before the Membership with the recommendation that the matter be now closed."

FLOOR RESOLUTION - PADDINGTON (Parker & Selwyn). "That this Conference recommends that a poll be taken on this subject. 'This Conference recommends that the case against Comrade A.W.L. Turner - in that he agitates amongst Party members for the abolition of the Declaration of Principles, is not proven and be closed'".

ADDENDUM - PUGHAM (Flitter & Hamp). "Add, and that a report of the proceedings be sent to every member".

CARRIED 27 - 7.

Addendum CARRIED 22 - 21.

EALING (Hampson). "Time should have been allotted to all Delegates to discuss this charge and pass an opinion".

PADDINGTON (Parker), opening to the resolution. "We wish only to clarify the findings, as not proven is not a very satisfactory decision."

E.C. MEMBER (Coster), question to Parker. "If a majority say NO to the Poll, I understand that you wish Rule 33 to be invoked".

PADDINGTON (Parker). "It gives members the opportunity to express their opinion. I am confident they will vote for the resolution."

EALING (Hampson). "It seems now that we are spending time trying to reverse or make easy a stupid and useless decision, one in which no Delegate had a chance to express opinion."

LEWISHAM (Guy E.). "A straight forward proposition should be put to the Party".

RESOLUTION - SOUTHBEND (Cottis and Dunkley). "That the vote be taken".

CARRIED 20 - 11.

STANDING ORDERS REPORT 47 Delegates were present, representing 27 Branches. Branches not represented - Croydon, Eccles, Nottingham and Tottenham.

WARNECKE & GUY E. Resolution to accept.

Agreed.

PUBLICITY.

PADDINGTON (Parker). "Very little publicity has been afforded to the 'Socialist Standard'. We are of the opinion that it is vital and important to place before the general public the name of the Party and its Official paper. At least £100 should be set aside for this purpose".

Item 20. SWANSEA. "That the question of advertising in
continued....."

6 C C DAY - FIRST SESSION

WARNECKE ("Warnecke"). Asked what would now happen to the charge, in the light of yesterday's decision?

A.W. LONDON (Lestor). "It would appear that from the decision of yesterday that the position of the charged member is clear, the matter is now closed. I suggest we put the charge and our findings before the Membership with the recommendation that the matter be now closed."

FLOOR RESOLUTION - PADDINGTON (Parker & Selwyn). "That this Conference recommends that a poll be taken on this subject. 'This Conference recommends that the case against Comrade A.W.L. Turner - in that he agitates amongst Party members for the abolition of the Declaration of Principles, is not proven and be closed'".

ADDENDUM - FLITTER (Flitter & Hamp). "Add, and that a report of the proceedings be sent to every member".

CARRIED 27 - 7.

Addendum CARRIED 22 - 21.

EALING (Hampson). "Time should have been allotted to all Delegates to discuss this charge and pass an opinion".

PADDINGTON (Parker), opening to the resolution. "We wish only to clarify the findings, as not proven is not a very satisfactory decision."

E.C. MEMBER (Coster), question to Parker. "If a majority say NO to the Poll, I understand that you wish Rule 33 to be invoked".

PADDINGTON (Parker). "It gives members the opportunity to express their opinion. I am confident they will vote for the resolution."

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LEWISHAM (Guy E.) "A straight forward proposition should be put to the Party".

RESOLUTION - SOUTHBEND (Cottis and Dunkley). "That the vote be taken".

CARRIED 20 - 11.

STANDING ORDERS REPORT 47 Delegates were present, representing 27 Branches. Branches not represented - Croydon, Eccles, Nottingham and Tottenham.

WARNECKE & GUY E. Resolution to accept.

Agreed.

PUBLICITY.

PADDINGTON (Parker). "Very little publicity has been afforded to the 'Socialist Standard'. We are of the opinion that it is vital and important to place before the general public the name of the Party and its Official paper. At least £100 should be set aside for this purpose".

Item 20. SWANSEA. "That the question of advertising in continued....."

the "Socialist Standard" be considered".
Swansea delegate wished to withdraw the item.

Fulham Branch delegates protested as they were instructed on the item.

SWANSEA (Branch). "The "Socialist Standard" should be open to outside advertising".

E.C. MEMBER (Coster). Advised that advertising would bring no benefit.

RESOLUTION - FULHAM (Flitter & Keys). "That this Conference recommends that the E.C. set up a Committee to investigate the advisability of accepting advertising for the "Socialist Standard".

LOST 13 - 27.

FULHAM (Keys) opening to the resolution. "Our idea is for selective advertising of approved books etc."

WICKFORD (Plummer). "We should do everything possible to get some financial assistance, adverts. may be the answer."

E.C. MEMBER (McClatchie). At one time we did try adverts. but they caused trouble.

RESOLUTION - HAMPSTEAD (Steed & Oliver). "That this Conference is opposed to the idea of commercial advertising in the "Socialist Standard".

CARRIED 30 - 5.

The Meeting adjourned to lunch, recommencing at 2.20 p.m.

Comrade A.W.L. TURNER sought urgency of the Chair.

RESOLUTION - HAMPSTEAD (Steed) and CAMBERWELL (Baldwin). "That the Conference proceeds with amendments to rule".

RESOLUTION - WOOLWICH (Higgs) and BLOOMSBURY (Gillies). "That the vote be taken".

CARRIED by a large majority.

Original motion.

LOST 17 - 27.

PADDINGTON (A.W.L. TURNER). "I wish to state that the resolution you moved and carried this morning was out of order - had I been informed I should have been here, you had no right to do this - Delegates who heard the charge on yesterday afternoon are probably not the same Delegates here today".

CHAIRMAN pointed out that the business was in correct order.

RESOLUTION - CAMBERWELL (Baldwin) and EALING (Hampson). "Next business".

CARRIED by a large majority.

STANDING ORDERS REPORT at 2.30 p.m. that 55 Delegates were present representing 27 Branches. Branches not represented were Eccles, Tottenham, Bradford and Groydon.

RESOLUTION to accept BLOOMSBURY (Gillies) and LEWISHAM (Guy E.).

AGREED.

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The Meeting now proceeded with amendments to Rule.

Rule 1. HAMPSTEAD. "That the following paragraph be added to the rule. 'In the event of a member ceasing to accept the Declaration of Principles, his membership shall be terminated by the Branch or the E.C.' "

Addendum. S.W. LONDON. "Add - 'But he shall have the right of appeal to Delegate Meeting and Annual Conference! "

HAMPSTEAD (Steed). "We claim one of the reasons is to be in line with the Party position".

CAMBERWELL (Baldwin). "This is a serious proposition. I come into the Party after my support had been solicited on the basis of the D. of P."

ST. PANCRAS (Moss). "Will someone who supports this resolution please explain as we hold that Rules 31, 32 and 33 deal adequately with Party discipline".

FLOOMCHIEVEY (Gillies). "Every member on signing a Form 'A' declares his or her adhesion to the D. of P. It is a contract between himself and the Party, aye, it is more than that, it is a contract of class loyalty".

Voting on the addendum - S.W. LONDON - CARRIED 38 - 28.

Voting on the motion - HAMPSTEAD - LOST 24 - 45.

FULHAM & ISLINGTON. "Insert between 'the' on line 2 and 'principles' on line 3, the words 'object and'.

CARRIED 49 - 17.

ISLINGTON. "That after the sentence ending 'by the branch' on line 12, the following paragraph be inserted, 'Any member ceasing to adhere to the Object and Principles shall forthwith tender their resignation and failure to tender such resignation shall invoke Rules 31 - 33' ".

LOST 28 - 40.

Rule 13. ST. PANCRAS. "Insert on lines 4 and 7 after the word 'absent', the words 'or late'.

LOST 13 - 48.

Rule 16. FULHAM. "That the Rule be deleted and the numbers of the following rules amended accordingly."

LOST 8 - 65.

RESOLUTION - HAMPSTEAD (Steed) and CAMBERWELL (McCarthy).

"That this meeting continues with resolutions on Party Organisation and membership without items for discussion."

LOST by a large majority.

FULHAM (Flitter). "Why are we expected to depart from our usual proceedings. I must oppose this resolution".

RESOLUTION - PADDINGTON (May) and FULHAM (Flitter). "That resolutions on Party organisation and membership numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 be taken together with items for discussion at 2 p.m. on Sunday afternoon.

CARRIED by a large majority.

continued.....

RESOLUTION 5 - ST. MARY. "That the wording of the Declaration of Principles be simplified".

LOST 7 - 52.

SWANSEA (Brain), opening. "Words could be simplified."

RESOLUTION 6 - ST. MARY. "That a clause dealing with religion be added to the D. of P."

SWANSEA (Brain), opening. "We should state within our D. of P. our materialist approach to society, time and time again we are faced with the religious question in Swansea. We should have our position made very clear, so that all applicants will know that we have an anti-religious outlook".

WICKFORD (Howie). "The weakness in Swansea's arguments are that they give us no form of wording they require."

LOST 8 - 62.

RESOLUTION 7 - ST. PANCRAZ. "That this Conference instructs the E.C. to discontinue the practice of circulating Branches asking for nominations for E.C. sub-committees, but that it be left open to any Branch to put forward any nominations prior to the election of sub-committees".

LOST 20 - 43.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY.

RESOLUTION 12 - ST. PANCRAZ. "That this Conference instructs the E.C. to make arrangements to contest at least one Constituency at the next General Election".

Amendment - CAMBERWELL. "Delete - 'one Constituency' and insert instead 'two Constituencies'".

Addendum - PADDINGTON. "Add - 'Further that the North Paddington Constituency be contested'".

KELVINGROVE (Webster). "Asked what activities have taken place in North Paddington and why they haven't been circulated to Branches?"

PADDINGTON (May). "The Branch has not done a lot of work in the area, though discussions have been carried out at the Branch room. Some canvassing has been done, and some newsagents still take copies of the "Socialist Standard". Meetings are still being held in Hyde Park and Notting Hill Gate".

HACKNEY (Neham). "The job of the Branch members of Paddington is to go around the area talking and discussing with the workers in preparation for the election. This is not being done".

MEETING ADJOURNED.

LAST DAY - FIRST SESSION.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY.

RESOLUTION 12 - ST. ALBANS. "That this Conference instructs the Executive Committee to make arrangements to contest at least one Constituency at the next General Election".

Amendment - CAMBERWELL. "Delete - 'one Constituency' and Insert instead 'two Constituencies'".

Addendum - PADDINGTON. "Add - 'Further that the North Paddington Constituency be contested'".

WICKFORD (Bowie). "During this Conference we have been told many things but we are seeming to forget that we also were instructed to vote on particular issues".

RESOLUTION - WICKFORD (Bowie) and BIRMINGHAM (Young). "That the vote be taken".

On this the Chairman ruled that he was not accepting the motion as several Delegates were indicating that they wished to continue discussion on this item.

RESOLUTION - EALING (Critchfield) and CAMBERWELL (Baldwin). "That the Chairman leave the chair".

LOST 11 - 18.

Discussion continued.

BRADFORD (Hall). "Being a small provincial branch we have no chance at present in taking an active part at election times, therefore, we suggest that an election address be published for all areas, and if need be, fight the election without candidates".

E.C. MEMBER (McLaughlin). "I am not opposed to political activity, but I hold it at the present time it is premature. We should remember that as a Party we are responsible for the activities of the Paddington Branch. Look at the results of propaganda activity in Paddington. It has generated the most reactionary unit in our history, not only one opposed to Parliament, but also of political activity. If you want to propagate ideas, you must hold those ideas sincerely".

KELVINGROVE (Danae). "We were formed as a branch to contest the Kelvingrove Constituency, but have not done so".

SWANSEA (Brain). "This issue of internal unrest has raised its unruly head on every occasion. Bradford's suggestion shows good sense".

GLASGOW CITY (Travers). "Although we hold to Parliamentary and political activity, at the present juncture how many socialists have we got as a result. If the money spent had been invested in an assistant at Head Office or printing pamphlets, I hold that it would have been well spent".

S.W. LONDON (Lester). "We have opposed Parliamentary activity in the terms of McLaughlin's views i.e. that the issue is premature, but Paddington is not under suspension, whilst Paddington Branch and its members want to work for the Party".

E.C. MEMBER (Lawrence). I do not accept McLaughlin's point of view, Paddington's views have nothing to do with political action as such. It is that their membership lacks the fundamental understanding. Without a Candidate we could possibly contest. I
continued.....

H.O. MEMBER (Lawrence) continued, "personally have always been disappointed with the results in Paddington North, there must be thousands who have now heard of the Party but very little is being done in the area."

S.W. LONDON (Hassett). "I don't recall Comrade Ambridge having any qualms when he worked with members of my Branch, who are not in favour of elections at the present time."

BRADFORD (Hall). "Almost the whole of Yorkshire have yet to hear of the Party, therefore, we should seriously consider an all-purpose all-Constituency election manifesto".

Voting on Camberwell's amendment - LOST 7 - 55.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE reports at 12 o'clock. 47 Delegates were present representing 27 Branches.

Motion to adopt - CAMBERWELL (Baldwin) and SOUTHEEND (Cottis).

AGREED.

Voting on Paddington addendum - LOST 14 - 46.

Voting on Resolution 12 - ST. PANCRAS - CARRIED 47 - 20.

RESOLUTION (floor) - BRADFORD (Hall) and SWANSEA (Brain).
"That this Conference requests the E.C. in the event of a General Election to contest all Constituencies in which there are active members, not by actual candidates, but by the issue of a Manifesto setting out the Party's case and asking supporters to vote for Socialism".

Amendments - ST. PANCRAS (Lee and Moss). "That this Conference recommends that the Party publish an Election Special similar to that used in past campaigns for use in all Constituencies, without reference to a particular Constituency".

Addendum - S.W. LONDON (Hassett and Lester). "Add, 'and that Branches be asked to submit the estimated number of copies required to the Parliamentary Committee'".

Voting on the amendment - CARRIED by a large majority.

As a substantive motion - CARRIED by a large majority.

Item for discussion - 17 LEWISHAM BRANCH. "The inadvisability of appointing a full-time paid Head Office assistant".

LEWISHAM (Rose). "We are not at all happy with the financial position as it affects this item. We would rather the appointment be in the nature of a full-time Propaganda Organiser looking after the mid-day meetings. We should, in that way, be propagating Socialism and not employing someone to keep H.O. clean".

E.C. MEMBER (Lawrence). It is stupid of Lewisham to argue that all that a paid assistant would do would be to keep H.O. clean. A competent Comrade could deal effectively with much of the routine work. At present H.O. efficiency gets worse and worse. There has been a suggestion that a book shop could be operated and its income could perhaps offset the present financial position." I repeat, it is the responsibility of the Party to run H.O. efficiently".

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WICKFORD (Hall). "I support the comments of Comrade Lawrence. We get off the backs of the H.O. workers and paid for their services. If we can afford a Head Office, we could afford to pay an assistant to that Office".

GENERAL SECRETARY (Edmonds). "We must organise an efficient office for the use of Branches."

RESOLUTION - CAMBERWELL (Baldwin) and KINGSTON (Lawrence).
"That the H.O. be recommended to go ahead with the appointment of a Head Office Assistant".

LEWISMAN (McDowall). "No member is opposed to the payment of a H.O. assistant, but we must face it, the organisation of H.O. has always been bad. We must consider whether it is important to pay an assistant for H.O., or put a paid Propaganda Organiser in the field, primarily looking after mid-day meetings. Appeals should still continue, however, for voluntary part-time assistance."

KINGSTON (Lawrence, P.) "With regard to the proposed Book Shop idea, if proved a success, we could use its finances to subsidise the payment of the H.O. assistant. At present I am under no illusions as to an immediate success, but it could serve as a useful means of publicity for the Party."

Voting on the floor resolution - CARRIED with 4 abstentions.

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Fraternal Greetings were now read.

Comrade Franks - Austria and the S.P. of Ireland.

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RESOLUTION - CAMBERWELL (Baldwin) and WICKFORD (Bowie).
"That we reply to and send fraternal greetings to Austria and all companion Parties".

AGREED.

Item for discussion - 14 PADDINGTON. "The Statement on the Party's Principles and Policy prepared by Comrades Evans, Parker and Rowan".

RESOLUTION - (floor) ISLINGTON - (Dearden and Perkins).
"That this item for discussion be reported back to the Branches for consideration, the reasons being that Branches have not seen the statement referred to".

ISLINGTON (Dearden), opening to the motion. "We are referred to a statement that is to appear in the April issue of "FORUM", which has only been issued within the last day or two. Therefore, Branches have been quite unable to discuss this particular statement".

KELVINGROVE (Webster). "Dearden advances good reasons for referring the back. I entirely support him".

PADDINGTON (Row). "It is most unfortunate that we were unable to circulate copies to Branches, but there is no considered view from Paddington Branch but those of the particular individuals mentioned. We wished only for it to be discussed generally".

Voting took place -

CARRIED 28 - 16.

continued.....

Item for discussion - 13 S.W. LONDON. "The D. of P. and Party membership".

S.W. LONDON (Hassett). "Many members have been dismayed by the bitterness said of other members which would not have been said of or to outside opponents. Some of the issues could be dealt with."

CAMBERWELL (Baldwin). "In application of the D. of P., we have met all comers. I say to those who have any disagreements, don't snipe from behind concealed positions, but get out to where we can identify you as opponents where we can meet you and discuss your opposition".

FULHAM (Cox). "We support the general view of S.W. London. Who else has the ability to examine the Party's attitude, but Party members themselves".

BLOOMSBURY (Kilpatrick). "There is nothing sacred about the Party, its Object and Declaration of Principles. We are always open to correction or revision".

ISLINGTON (Dearden). "Members should either be sure of themselves and their adhesion to the D. of P. or get out".

E.C. MEMBER (Ambridge). "I will welcome the day when a Branch of the Party is able and capable of sending a delegation to Conference with an alternative to our Declaration of Principles. I suggest that there is no other organisation where you could place an item like this on the Agenda. I must strongly oppose the suggestion that there is no right within the Party to discuss".

E.C. MEMBER (Hardy). "I would like to see the views of those in disagreement circulated throughout the Party and challenge them to produce an alternative draft of the D. of P. Some members may feel that they should resign due to the controversy. I don't want this to happen".

FLOOR RESOLUTION - HAMPSTEAD (Steed) and CAMBERWELL (McCarthy). "That the Conference now proceed to deal with the resolutions".

CARRIED 26 - 13.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE reports at 2.30 p.m. that 57 Delegates were present representing 26 Branches. Branches not represented being Croydon, Dartford, Eccles, Palmers Green and Tottenham.

Motion to adopt - CAMBERWELL (Baldwin) and SOUTHEND (Cottis).
AGREED.

RESOLUTION - KELVINGROVE (Webster). "That in the event of the Party Poll being carried (i.e. shall members of the Party who do not accept its Object and Declaration of Principles be asked to resign and if they refuse to do so, their membership be terminated?). 1) Members asked to resign shall have the right of appeal to Delegate Meeting or Annual Conference, 2) Branches shall be informed of the evidence and reasons for taking action".

KELVINGROVE (Webster), opening. "In the terms of the Party Poll, it gave the E.C. unconditional rights to ask members to resign or terminate their membership".

ISLINGTON (Dearden). "Discussion of this kind is irrelevant and crosses the Party Poll."

FULHAM (Flitter), asked the Chairman to read the E.C.'s ruling relating to the Party Poll decision. This was read.

PADDINGTON (Parker). "This resolution is a very serious matter and we should be careful in what we are resolving this afternoon."

RESOLUTION (floor) - WEST HAM (Thurloe) and SOUTHEM (Cottis).
"That the vote be taken".

CARRIED by a large majority.

KELVINGROVE RESOLUTION - CARRIED 52 - 17.

RESOLUTION - 2 GLASGOW. "That this Conference views with grave concern statements made by members of the Party, both oral and written, which are in opposition to the Party's Declaration of Principles. We therefore re-assert that membership of the Party is conditional on acceptance of these principles and warn offending members that, should they persist in disregarding this fact, disciplinary action shall be taken against them".

Addendum - CAMBERWELL. "Add - 'under Rule 33'".

Amendment - ISLINGTON. "Delete - 'views with grave concern' and insert instead 'is opposed to'".

RESOLUTION - ISLINGTON (Dearden) and CAMBERWELL (McCarthy).
"That the question be put".

LOST by a large majority.

GLASGOW (Travers). "No change has occurred in the Capitalist system that calls for an alteration of our D. of P. We should, therefore, not deal with futile discussion".

FULHAM (Flitter). "We defend Democracy, yet we are resentful of members who are critical or wish to investigate. The E.C. is in the members control and is purely a business committee, it certainly intends to give the business to some members".

ST. PANCRAS (Moss). "I have shown disagreement with Clause 6, but the E.C. has suggested that I get out. If those who hold unswervingly to the D. of P. are on the winning side, then truth will prevail, but I consider it better to stop, think and discuss."

HIGH WYCOMBE (Roe). "There are some things that don't change, the Party's case and its D. of P. is the compass, when at sea a Captain does not throw overboard his compass because he is dependent on it. If we throw overboard our compass, we cease to be a Socialist Political Party. I await any member who can show me an alternative or improvement of our D. of P."

E.C. MEMBER (Coster). "I am in agreement with Hardy. For the last two years we have had criticism, but nothing useful has come out of it".

CAMBERWELL (Baldwin). "Why don't these members in disagreement put their views in writing for Conference to read and discuss".

FULHAM (Cox). "We should be able at all times to discuss differences without our membership being in jeopardy. Glasgow don't give limits as to whether they mean the whole of the D. of P. or parts. Are you scared that after 50 years you may be wrong?"

continued.....

E.C. MEMBER (Lawrence). "I'm sure these members in disagreement think that they are serving the Party, but it is not so. It was through a study of Marxism that the D. of P. came into being and the Party was formed. I say, that in 1904 those members who formed the Party, on the basis of the D. of P., were mental giants compared with these self-styled saviours. Years ago a Committee was set up to investigate the D. of P. but found nothing to amend or alter. This reformist element if developed, will sit the Capitalist firmer in the saddle of power".

RESOLUTION - CAMBERWELL (Baldwin & McCarthy). "That the question be put".

LOST 24 - 23.

WILMOTT (non-Delegate). "We should have a definition of 'rights', in fact I wish they would explain what these rights are. To my knowledge there is and always has been, within the Party, a right to discuss but is it right to allow these discussions outside the Party or upon its platform ?".

E.C. MEMBER (Trotman). "Glasgow do not want to draw any line, but want to leave it to the E.C., who themselves are divided, half the E.C. does not accept the contention of Clause 6, for instance."

Voting now took place.

Addendum - CAMBERWELL - CARRIED 47 - 26.

Amendment - ISLINGTON - CARRIED 35 - 33.

GLASGOW - RESOLUTION as addended and amended.
CARRIED 42 - 25.

RESOLUTION - 3 BLOOMSBURY. "That this Conference holds that any member who no longer accepts the Object and Declaration of Principles should resign from the Party. This does not apply to a member who, whilst accepting the Object and Declaration of Principles wishes to discuss interpretations, rephrasing, or alterations that are not fundamental. A member who advocates the abandonment of the Object or the Declaration of Principles or the Class Struggle basis or the capture of Political power, in fact puts himself outside the Socialist Party".

Amendment - FULHAM. "Delete all after the word 'alterations' in line 5.

Voting was taken without discussion.

Amendment - FULHAM - LOST 16 - 50.

RESOLUTION - BLOOMSBURY - CARRIED 40 - 31.

RESOLUTION - 4 FULHAM. "That this Conference recognises that there are members of the Party who believe that the Declaration of Principles and certain of the Party's ideas are in need of revision. To test the validity of these beliefs this Conference instructs the Executive Committee to call for nominations for a Committee of at least 5 persons to examine the Declaration of Principles and constructive alternatives from members. Their findings to be placed before Annual Conference 1956. Furthermore, this Conference invites individual members to submit constructive ideas that they may have on this matter to the next Annual Conference."

continued.....

Amendment - ISLINGTON. "Delete the word 'persons' in line 6, and insert instead the word 'members'.

Amendment - BLOOMSBURY. "Delete all after the words 'need of revision' at the end of the first paragraph and insert instead the following - 'the Conference is of the opinion that, this being the case, the best interests of the Party would be served by the members concerned placing their views in writing before the next Delegate meeting so that these may be debated by the membership'".

Amendment - S.W. LONDON. "Delete all after 'alternative from members' and insert instead 'their findings to be circulated with the call for items for the preliminary Agenda for the 1956 Annual Conference'".

Amendment - S.W. LONDON. "Delete all after the word 'instructs' on line 4 and insert instead 'Branches to examine the Declaration of Principles and constructive alternatives at special meetings called for this purpose. Their findings, in draft form, including minority views, expressed anonymously, to be placed before a drafting Committee of five members within six months of the Conference. This drafting Committee to circularise all Branches with a consolidated draft of views expressed within nine months of this Conference. This Conference instructs the Executive Committee to call for nominations for such a Committee'".

Voting was taken without discussion.

Amendment - ISLINGTON - Generally agreed.

Amendment - BLOOMSBURY - LOST 25 - 45.

Amendment - S.W. LONDON - LOST 29 - 44.

Amendment - S.W. LONDON - LOST 25 - 41.

RESOLUTION - FULHAM, as amended - LOST 26 - 40.

RESOLUTION - CAMBERWELL (Baldwin) and SOUTHEND (Cottis).
"That this Conference adopts the E.C. report".
AGREED.

Conference adjourned at 6.10 p.m.

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